



## Section 5: Understanding your community's resources

### Section overview

- Your community's natural resources
- Developing a community inventory

Transition involves a number of people and agencies or formal resources (like school and adult services). They all have eligibility requirements and government funding. You will also benefit from connections to local people, places and organizations. This section provides ideas to help you find community resources to create opportunities for work and community experiences written in your IEP.

### Your community's natural resources

Every neighborhood and its surrounding community have unique and important resources for people that live, work and play there. Neighbors frequently look out for each other and come together to celebrate and have fun. Neighborhoods also include businesses, community centers, places to recreate, and civic and spiritual organizations. These people and places are your community's natural resources.

### Develop a community inventory

Your school and other agencies may or may not help you connect with these resources, but you and your family can do this on your own. For example, you can:

- Develop a community inventory. List places and events in your community where people spend their time. Plan to visit for fun. You may also connect with people that share interests.
- Think about your inventory as resources for work and community experiences in your IEP. Share your inventory with your IEP team to identify how they fit into your plan. These resources are also useful in facilitated person-centered planning.
- Look for ways to volunteer at community events or with organizations that serve the community. You may develop valuable connections for future work.

